

TINTWISTLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

**To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Tintwistle Rural
District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District during the year 1919.

The mills in the district have been in full employment, and the prosperity of the district has never been so great. Men were demobilized from the Army in great numbers, and many of them returned to their own work ; others, found in-door employment too trying after their war experiences, so found out-door employment.

The Military training has had a wonderful effect upon the physique of the younger men.

Food restrictions are gradually being taken off, and the people are able to purchase more meat, which is a great improvement on the tinned rations they were at times forced to rely on. I sincerely hope that before long that the Butter and Sugar Supplies will become normal, as Margarine is a very poor substitute. I find many people are unable to digest it.

Population (Census, 1911):—

„ for Birth Rate	1987
„ for Death Rate	1907
Area in Acres	13620
Birth Rate per 1000 Living	12.5
Death Rate per 1000 Living	14.1
Death Rate from Zymotic Disease	1.04
Deaths under one year to 1000 Births	148

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Four deaths of infants under one year of age were registered, being equal to a death rate of 148 per 1000 births registered.

Causes of death were as follows:—

Premature Birth	3
Marasmus	1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Measles	1
Diphtheria	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Cancer	3
Pneumonia	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ophthalmia Necnatorum	2 Cases.
Scarlet Fever	2 „
Diphtheria	1 „
Measles	38 „

The above Infectious Diseases were notified during 1919.

MEASLES.

Two cases of Measles were reported on January 11th, 1919. The disease was contracted in Sheffield. The next case was not reported until February 11th, so I do not think that the infection was from the cases reported in January. The January cases were completely isolated. To the end of March 38 cases were reported, but this does not by any means represent the number of children infected. The Independent School was closed for three weeks during the month of March on account of Measles.

There was one death during the outbreak.

SCARLET FEVER.

Two cases reported during the year. Both occurred in the Hattersley portion of your district. One was contracted in Hyde—source of the other difficult to establish. Both cases were isolated, and there was no further spread of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case of this disease was notified from Tintwistle—which proved fatal.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases notified during the year. One was a case of Tuberculosis Larynx, and the other two Pulmonary infection. People are being impressed upon to allow as much fresh air and sunshine into their houses as possible—that, together with preventing overcrowding, is the best means of stamping out Tuberculosis in Country Districts. Suspected cases are sent to the County Council Clinic (Tuberculosis), Hyde.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1910.

The above Act is now administered by the County Authorities. One Certified Midwife in the district. No cases of Puerperal Septicæmia have been notified during the year.

CHILD WELFARE.

A Nurse appointed by the County Council visits the Infants and School Children and advises the parents as to feeding and the treatment of minor ailments.

WATER SUPPLY.

The sources of supply have been inspected. Two samples have been taken from Gallows' Cough, Matley, and Standbricks, Tintwistle. These, on analysis, have been found to be good samples of drinking water—that from Standbricks being described as first class. No complaints have been made as regards any shortage. In Hattersley each block of cottages has its own spring or well.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Regulation under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops' Act were made by the Council in 1901, and came into force in October of the same year. There are 52 Cowkeepers registered in your district. Some of the Shippens lack the necessary cubic space, and others might be kept a great deal cleaner.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are no Milk Shops, and Milk is supplied by the farmers in the surrounding districts.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Schools in the district. They are in good structural repair—well ventilated, and kept clean. They have a good water supply. The children are examined periodically by a Doctor appointed by the County Council.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

In the more rural portions of the district the refuse is removed by the occupier. Where there are a number of houses together the Inspector orders a farmer to cart it away and charges the property owner with the cost.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Works situated at Tintwistle discharge their work well. Samples of the effluent were taken by the Inspector of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee, and reported as good being first on the list. The disposal plant for portion of Matley Works is as satisfactory as can be expected, seeing that there is only one set of Tank and Filter Beds.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are three Factories and three Workshops. They have been inspected regularly, and found clean and well ventilated.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

The work under the above Act is in abeyance on account of the low rents, cost of material, and the high wages demanded by the workpeople.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Together with your Sanitary Inspector I have gone round portions of your district. A great deal of property has got into a bad state of repair. In some cases the structural arrangements are bad and require considerable alteration.

No new houses have been built.

HOUSING.

In your district there are 571 houses, 75% being inhabited by the working class. Rents average from 2/- to 3/6 per week. No new houses have been erected during the year.

The population remains about the same. I do not see any likelihood of there being any increase or diminution in it.

There is no immediate shortage of ordinary houses with two bed-rooms, but there is a shortage of houses with three bed-rooms.

The Council at the present time are considering the best means of meeting this shortage.

So far as I am aware there is no case of overcrowding.

The houses are for the most part constructed of stone, covered with grey or blue slates. With few exceptions they are well built. Chief defects are: Dampness—uneven flagging of back yards—defective traps—windows unable to be opened.

No houses have been closed on account of being unfit for habitation, but four are going to be. Owing to house shortage their closing has been postponed.

Six houses are structurally defective, but could be made temporarily habitable.

At the present time Public Scavenging is under the discussion of the Council, and should it be decided to adopt it there will thus be a great number of privy ashpits converted into pail closets.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES OF EACH TYPE IN THE DISTRICT.

Number of Privies with Fixed Receptacles	283
„ „ with Moveable Receptacles	68
„ „ Fresh Water Closets	87
„ „ Waste Water and Hand Flushed Closets	13
Conversion during 1919:	
Privy Moveable to Fresh Water W.C.	1

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council to send Venereal cases to the Clinic at the Ashton Infirmary. I find that patients, as a rule, are willing to avail themselves of the opportunity of attending there. Venereal disease is more prevalent now than it was before the war.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The duty of Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Nuisances is held by one man. There is a Fever Hospital situated in Mottram Moor for the accommodation of eight people.

Arrangements have been made with the Hyde Corporation to take in all cases of Membranous Croup and Diphtheria.

Any specimens for Chemical or Bacteriological examination are sent to the County Council Laboratory, Chester.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is one situated in your district, and that is only used intermittently, viz. : Tripe Boiling.

The effluent from the Tannery situated at Spout Green, and which runs through a portion of your district, and about which many complaints have been made regarding the pollution of a stream, is in the hands of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered me by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Storey, in carrying out my duties during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEO. J. AWBURN, B.Hy.,

Medical Officer of Health.

